

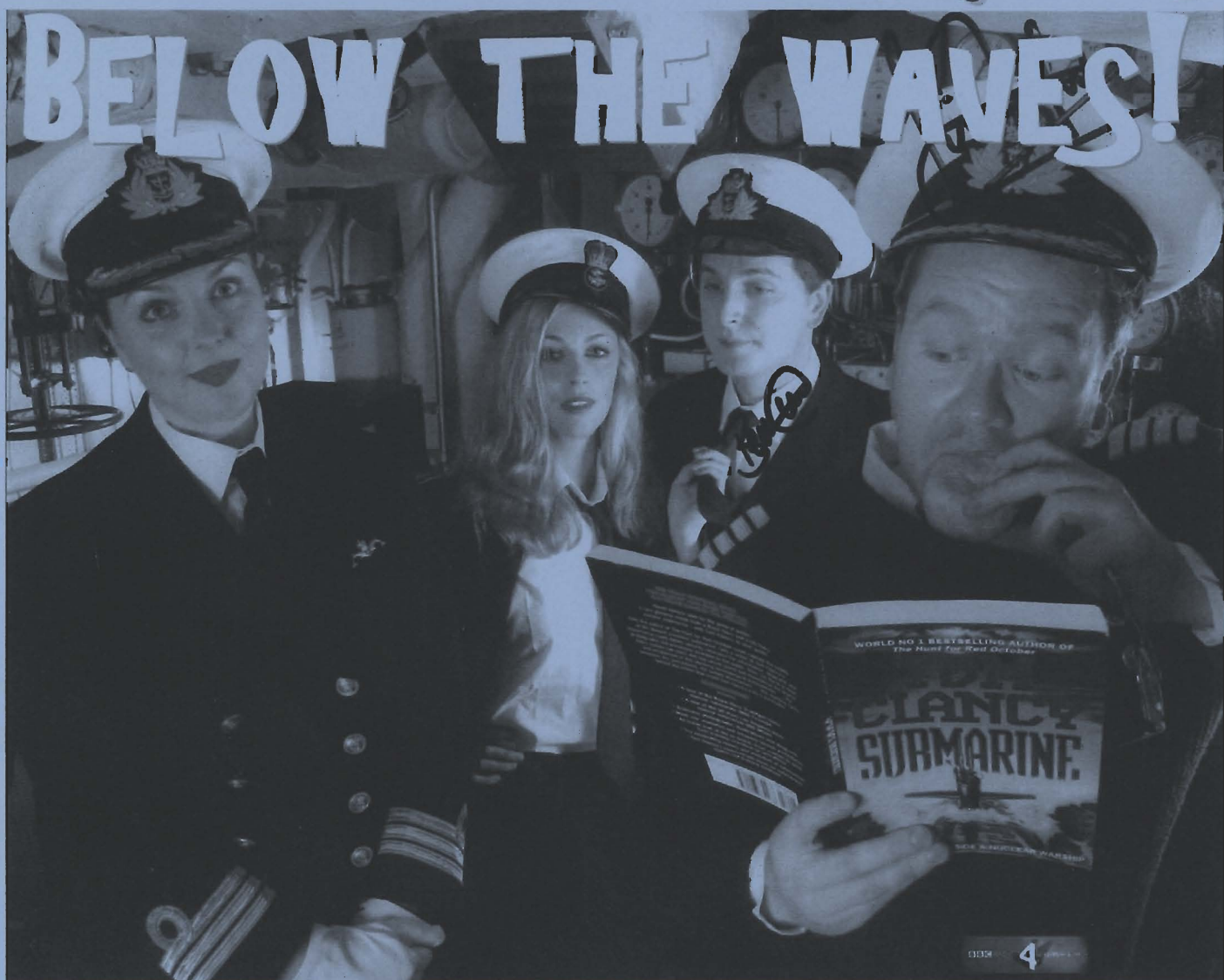
The Navy Lark Appreciation Society Newsletter

NAVY DAYS



More Nautical Mayhem

BELOW THE WAVES!



DEEP TROUBLE



Grand Day!

The final three months of 2005 were full of surprises for us Navy Lark aficionados. We were able to establish contact with established old time radio enthusiasts and take delivery of two totally new collections of around 50 shows recorded from the radio on reel to reel machines at the original time of broadcast. These recordings have all been through David Matthews' delicate scrutiny, and the result of his labours means that many shows in our archive have now been upgraded or replaced. David has undertaken some excellent restoration work, which means we are also now offering fuller versions of some broadcasts. You can review the new material on our library page. David has decided he is now in a position to offer library users a choice of format with future loans. This means you can now receive all library shows on tape, CD or MP3 format. The fee has also been reduced to just £1.00 (including postage) per tape/disc.

2006 is going to be a bumper year for Navy Lark releases. Michael Stevens at BBC Worldwide has commissioned three releases for this year:

'Navy Lark 18' - entitled 'Back from the Antarctic' - is scheduled for release on 4 September. The provisional contents are believed to be:

- 02.07.1967 "Back From the Antarctic"
- 30.07.1967 "The Naval Review"
- 10.09.1967 "Troutbridge's Silver Jubilee"
- 05.04.1970 "Sub Lt. Phillips at Dartmouth"

On April 3 2006 a special release called

"The Very Best of The Navy Lark"

is due out. Volume 1 features:

- 28.06.1959 "An Exercise in Filming"
- 29.01.1960 "The Lighthouse Lark"
- 19.02.1960 "Tug-of-War"
- 19.04.1963 "A Deliberate Bashing"



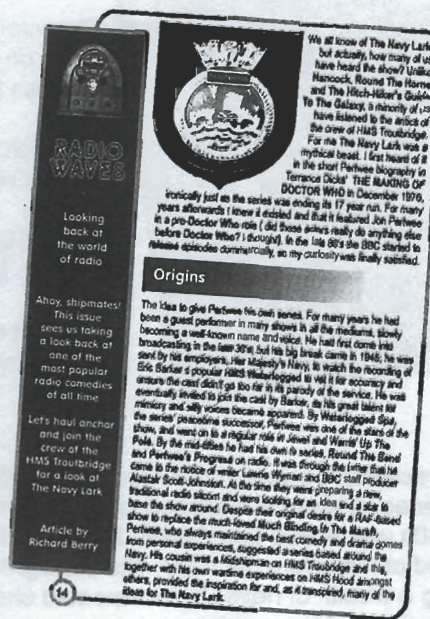
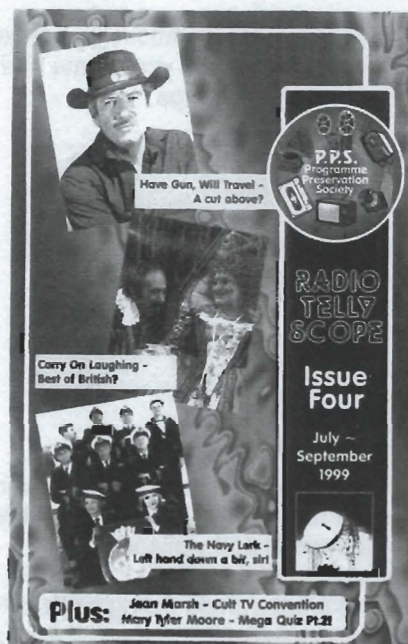
The pack comes with full colour artwork derived from Evelyn Wells' photographs taken aboard HMS Chrysanthemum.

The third series of The Navy Lark is also being released as a complete box on July 3. The edition will be issued in a similar style and format to earlier releases and will have the title "The Navy Lark Collector's Edition Series 3". Ted Kendal has spoken to us about what might appear on an "empty" disc side. A number of ideas have been suggested but it is believed that the Radio 4 "Radio Lives" broadcast featuring Jon Pertwee completes the set.

The society has now just 6.5 shows to find in order to complete the entire British Navy Lark catalogue. We know we have a totally new show en route so the real headline figure is 5.5! Well done everyone in getting this far. I never thought we would. The South African show is currently undefined with regard to number of shows and/or which shows transferred to Springbok. Hopefully, Frank Graham - a former cast member of the series - has agreed to provide a few memories of the show and give us a little background as to how the show was put together.

In our most recent correspondence, we have been debating the role of nicknames and their appropriateness. Did Richard Caldicot really deserve the nomenclature of "Thunderguts" or was it somewhat ironic given his personal circumstances? Do write in with your thoughts and examples from the series, together with any comments you might wish to make.

Richard Berry has kindly sent us a copy of a Navy Lark article he wrote and published via "Radio TellyScope" It is a magazine prepared and published by The Programme Preservation Society. The group celebrates a wide and eclectic portfolio of shows. If you have a keen interest in television and radio from yesteryear, you will find some marvellous references to all manner of long forgotten shows therein. For details of the society contact: www.pps-tv.co.uk or Martin Hearn (PPS) 19 Crummock Drive, Heron Hill, Kendal, Cumbria, LA9 7PQ.



Douglas Johnstone and Stephen Marshall continue their watchful gaze on archive data and have forwarded useful notes to enable us to revise information and improve our records.

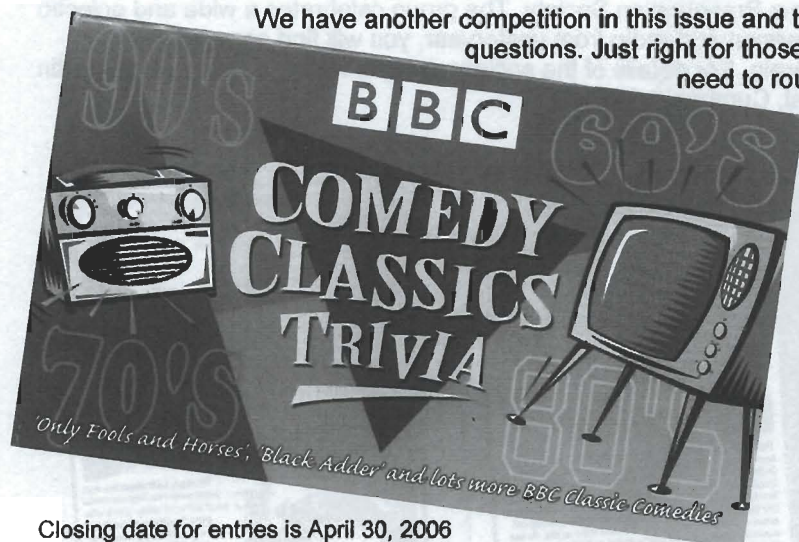
Many thanks to everyone who kindly forwarded some really wonderful cards and delightful messages to us before Christmas. It was very obvious that time, energy and enthusiasm had gone into all the correspondence and we felt honoured to have received such praise.

Tenniel Evans has been in touch and, despite not being terribly well now, has been able to provide a few more details about his acting life. During the autumn, we located three audio books he has recorded: two gospel readings which have received enormous critical praise and an audio book of Tenniel's autobiography "Don't walk in the long grass".



A small independent publisher we contacted has a story tape read by Tenniel in which he recounts the life of a country parson. The library is run specifically for visually impaired people and Trevor Collis who operates the service has asked people wishing to use/hear the material to sign up to the group: enquiries@calibre.org.uk

We have another competition in this issue and the prize is a marvellous box set of BBC radio trivia questions. Just right for those occasions when old friends drop round and you need to round the evening off with something entertaining but not too difficult.

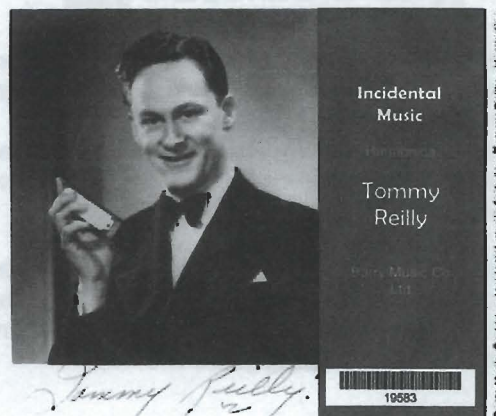


To enter, answer all three questions and send your entry on a postcard along with your name and address to Honeysuckle Cottage.

- A) Which character frequently said "You're rotten, you are."?
- B) What is the name of the ITV version of **The Navy Lark** broadcast in the early 60s?
- C) What did Ramona prepare for Captain Povey's tea most evenings?

Closing date for entries is April 30, 2006

Allen Taylor joined The Navy Lark Appreciation Society in the Autumn of 2005. His long interest in radio and off air recording extends back over three decades. A chance message exchanged via eBay has meant that a unique vinyl record junked by the BBC in the early 80s was saved from landfill by Allen's inquisitiveness and vigilance. Allen had agreed to purchase a van load of tape from the BBC. The consignment was hundreds, if not thousands, of studio tapes all pre-used and containing a wealth of never to be repeated shows and programmes dating back to the 50s and 60s. Whilst Allen was at the studios picking up his consignment of master reels, he noticed a large skip brimming with vinyl. He asked if he was free to help himself to the discs and was pleasantly surprised to learn that he could. The van was duly filled to the roof with as much media as could be pushed into the available space. Once home, he managed to cram the material into his loft. 20 years later he still has yet to hear less than a fraction of what he retrieved that day. The vinyls are brought out one by one and played in his lab as he prepares an electrical circuit or rig. To date, Allen has found original Jimmy Clitheroe shows, studio recordings of The Goons and a unique Tommy Reilly vinyl, to name but a few. The Tommy Reilly vinyl is packaged in a brown sleeve with no identifying features, but sleeve notes indicate that the material was prepared by Barry Music Company Limited. The disc has 50 individual tracks of varying length but most last around 15 to 20 seconds. The music is themed, allowing radio producers to select incidental music with a fast or slow tempo, or perhaps with a nautical or otherwise inspired tune depending on programme needs.



NLAS Artwork.

This record is from the Library of recorded music produced on wave-mechanics discs especially for the radio, television and film industry to the highest possible professional standards. The music is copyright of Berry Music Co. Ltd and licence must be obtained for usage. Stereo and Mono tapes are available from Berry Music Co. and their agents.

(A) HARMONICA						
Track No.	Title	Time	Composer	Description	Source	
1	SOPHISTICATED PARTY	1.14	D. Barker	Slow Waltz	Solo Harmonica and Small Orchestra. Acoustic. Ex SH 118 (1/78) Ex SH 201 (6/78) Ex SH 231 (1/79)	
2	WIND IN HER HAIR	1.00		Bright Waltz		
3	BLADE WIND HORNPIPE	0.35		Bright, Nautical		
4	CHILD'S PLAY	0.46		Bouncy		
5	HURRY, HURRY	0.13		Fast		
6	PINE AND NEEDLES	0.10		Fast		
7	NIGHT OUT	0.16		Bouncy		
8	SHOOTING THE RAPIDS	0.14		Fast		
9	ALLEY CAT	0.23		Medium Tempo		
10	MINABELLE	0.34		Waltz		
11	CLOSING TAB 1	0.06		Bright Ending		
12	CLOSING TAB 2	0.05		Bright Ending		
13	CROWN AND ANCHOR	0.25		Bright		
14	BEAUTY QUEEN	0.36		Slow Waltz		
15	EVENING STROLL	0.39		Relaxed Tempo		
16	KEEP IT STEADY	0.17		Happy Bounce		
17	JAUNTY JOE	0.17		Bright		
18	CONJURING TRICK	0.30		Bright		
19	GANGWAY	0.55		Bright		
20	CAPTAIN HORNPIPE	0.38		Bright, Nautical		
21	LIBERTY SPECIAL	0.38		Bright March		
22	DOUBLE MARCH	0.44		Medium March		
23	ROLLING STONE	0.40		Bright		
24	SAUCY JACK	0.18		Bouncy		
25	TALL STORY	0.40		Swinging		
26	COCKED HAT	0.26		Bright		
27	DECK GAMIE	0.28		Fast		

(B) HARMONICA

Track No.	Title	Time	Composer	Description	Source
1	CAISS CROSS	0.54		Bright	
2	ROYAL JESTER	0.43		Bright	
3	HIGHWAY	0.43		Bright	
4	FLY BY NIGHT	0.06		Bright	
5	FOLLOW THROUGH	0.08		Bright	
6	TOP DOG	0.29		Jumpy	
7	BAST GOING	0.10		Jumpy	
8	SHARTE	0.38		Fest	
9	CAUGHT OUT	0.36		Bright	
10	FLIP FLAP	0.30		Jumpy	
11	RIDIN' HERD	0.37		Bright	
12	WHISTLING STAG	0.16		Breezy	
13	CAIKET ON THE SPRUE	1.26	D. Barker	Jumpy	
14	ALPINE ECHOES	1.13		Bright Waltz	
15	DOWNTOWN BLUES	1.23		Moody	
16	ANOTHER SPRING	0.81		Nostalgic	
17	MORE WASTE	0.10		Fest	
18	PAY OFF	0.09		Fest	
19	BIVER QUEEN	0.38		Bright Waltz	
20	BLUE DAWN	0.21		Nostalgic	
21	LOST PATROL	0.41		Dramatic	
22	BLUE SAILS	0.40		Bright Waltz	
23	ROUNDABOUT ROMANCE	0.44		Bright Waltz	

Harmonica with Althea #
 Ex 84 238 (7/11)
 Ex 84 239 (8/12)
 Ex 84 240 (9/13)

The disc has the familiar tune of "Tradewind Hornpipe"; the recording is under a minute long. Roger Trobridge (no connection to The Navy Lark!) of The National Harmonica League believes the original composition began its life as "Sailor's Hornpipe". It was written under the pseudonym of Max Martin - who just happened to be Tommy Reilly! Evelyn Wells has had a look at the details and she is in no doubt that this is the record she and Alastair Scott Johnston used back in 1959 when choosing a theme tune and various musical themes to punctuate the 'action' in the show. Allen has re-mastered the disc to a very high standard and sent us a couple of copies. We have, in turn, forwarded a pristine copy on to Ted Kendall, who is responsible for all the Navy Lark recordings the BBC publish, to give him a chance to utilise studio quality originals in his restoration work on Navy Lark recordings. We have also put a copy into our library for everyone to enjoy whether or not you are ever likely to tidy up your own recordings.

Back in October 2005 a disc arrived in the wardroom from David Matthews, our librarian, with part of a Navy Lark show recorded on it. The opening ten minutes of the show were missing from the recording but the end credits were intact and it was possible to make a deduction that this show was one of our "missing" recordings. We have agreed, by using Tony Reynolds' excellent log (which is based on the BBC's written archives), that the material is in fact 02/20. Two characters voiced by Barker and Bates are - unusually - listed as "Indians". Lawrie was very careful to create imaginary countries and used foreign accents (eg Russian and American) sparingly. The Navy Lark avoided causing offence to any national and never resorted to bigotry for a quick laugh. The voiced characters by Barker and Bates are the familiar 'Portameyland' vocalisations from Troutbridge's erstwhile overseas manoeuvres. With no new material arriving on board for approaching three years, this was a very exciting find. It was hugely important to track down the origins of the recording and learn more.

It transpired that Vic Pickard bought a large black dustbin liner full of boxes of old tapes at Lancaster Antiques Centre for the princely sum of £25. He had no idea at the time what was on them. Vic is a keen Old Time Radio enthusiast and is well known in another collectors' group: Vintage Radio Programme Collectors Circle (VRPCC). As a keen archivist, he is always on the look out for possible sources of overlooked material. He wrote, "I wasn't sure at the time if I had bought a pup or not, but decided to risk it. When I got them home I could not believe the amount of material that had been put onto these tapes, most of the comedy programmes being The Navy Lark, The Clitheroe Kid, Take It From Here, Rays a Laugh, some plays and some other snippets from The Light Programme days of the 50's and 60's. There were approx 35 tapes in the bag. As you know, collections - usually collections bought at car boot sales - add up to Music, Jazz etc. The tapes were recorded mostly at 1.875 ips over 4 tracks on mainly 7" but some 5" reels, so you can tell how much material was crammed onto them. It would appear the original owner was saving programmes for posterity." Vic, who was a TV service engineer and something of a genius with old quarter inch tape recorders, has managed to get surprisingly good quality by adjusting the position of the tape head. Anyway, the show has had a front end carefully sellotaped onto it and the show is available for loan from our library; just look for 02/20 details.



BBC7 listeners experienced a rarity in January when the regular and rather robust Navy Lark repeats sequence was interrupted by a collection of new shows added to the station's programming schedule: "A Crisp Romance" aired on Thursday 12 January 2006 followed by "The Lighthouse Lark", "Pertwee Posted to Portsmouth", "Johnson's Diet" and "Tug-of-War" aka "Manchester Ship Canal" (all for the first time on the station) in their correct chronological placing. Does this mean that the station has now cleared a difficult copyright issue which had prevented an earlier outing? Let us know if you have any details.



We are indebted to BBC7 for its homage to Ronnie Barker on Saturday 7 January 2006 broadcast at 9.00AM and 8.00PM. Barry Cryer assuredly delivered informed comment and historical interviews, and contextualised Ronnie's development across the four shows featured in the three hour celebration. After a half hour introduction which featured excerpts and anecdotes, "The Floggits" from the late 50's demonstrated how a very young Ronald Barker was an immensely accomplished comedic actor. Next came "The Navy Lark" (1959) - perhaps not the best choice of episode to showcase Ronnie's talent; this was followed by "Not To Worry" (1964) which had completely escaped my memory. The final offering was "Lines From My Grandfather's Forehead" (1971). This show divides our membership down the middle. Some people love it; others are less enthusiastic. If you are yet to decide, visit the library and indulge yourself. The final half hour featured interviews and excerpts from Ronnie's television work. The programme effectively portrayed the breadth and extent of Ronnie's skills and talent. Barry Cryer succeeded in making the show appealing and very listenable. A DVD (sound recording only) or 3 CDs are now in the library for anyone who missed the broadcast.

Ronnie was also the subject of a one hour celebration on BBC1 (Thursday 29 December 2005) with Jonathan Ross. This rather lightweight production lacked conviction. Jonathan Ross was not the best choice for the show, and although Leslie Phillips is featured as a token "Navy Lark" colleague, the programme was disappointing. R4 re-broadcast 3 shows from Ronnie's "Lines From My Grandfather's Forehead" commencing 22 February and finishing 8 March 2006. The mini series was called "Starring Ronnie Barker" and went out on Wednesday mornings at 11.30. Copies of the original broadcasts are in the library. A selection of reviews of The Westminster Celebration of Ronnie are included in this edition. We contacted the cathedral for a copy of the service but none were available to the Society.

On 7th May 2005, Heather Chasen played a mischievous patient in "Casualty". She returned to television in November 2005 in "Family Affairs", appearing for the second time in 2005 in a hospital situation. She played a

stoical patient retaining that marvellous glint in her eye! The week's five shows (7,8,9,10,11 November) were recorded direct to DVD and are in the library for your delight, as is Heather's "Casualty" performance.



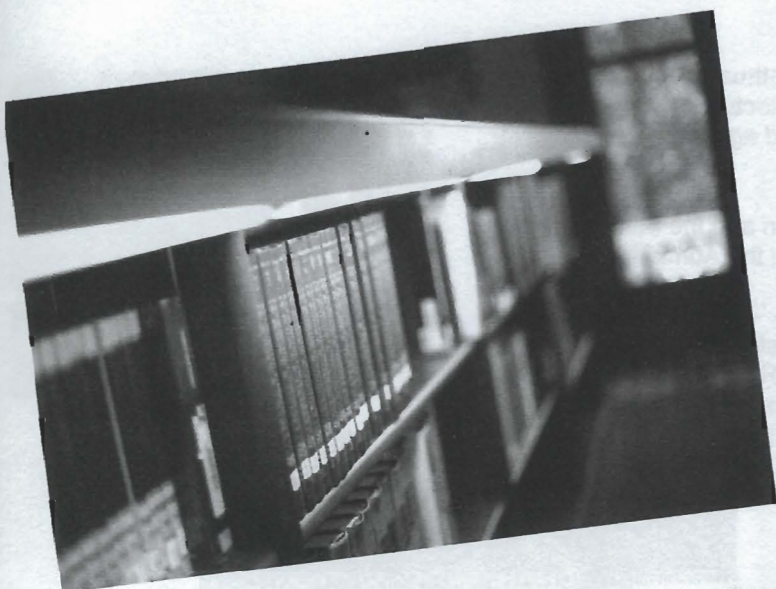
Michael Bates has been seen on the box in recent months with various repeats of shows from the sixties and seventies. Our grateful thanks to Stephen Marshall who managed to record a "Jason King" show called "As Easy as ABC" on ITV4. It is a typical Jason King story and an enjoyable way to spend an hour. A DVD copy of this show is now in the library.



Originally aired: Thursday November 11, 1971 on ITV1

Director: Jeremy Summers
 Show Stars: Peter Wyngarde (Jason King)
 All Guest Stars: Nigel Green (Charles), Michael Bates (Edward), Yvette Stensgaard (Arlene), Ayesha Brough (Mirelle), Paul Stassino (Capitano Rizio), Hamilton Dyce (Chief Inspector Poron)

Two crooks decide to execute the crimes in King's novels. When things go wrong, they decide they must kill King.



Liz Morgan was in a murder mystery on Radio 4 back in October 2005: "Murder by the Book". This entertaining programme featured the ever popular Mary Wimbush and Doreen Mantle as a pair of old fashioned librarians in a small community which struggles to survive alongside two competing bookshops. If you like your fiction Miss Marple-style, this library who-done-it written by Stephen Sheridan is going to be essential listening. Will you work out 'whodunit' before the closing minutes? Copies are in the NLAS library so dust off your magnifying glass and start sleuthing.



STEED GOES OFF THE RAILS
 EMMA FINDS HER STATION IN LIFE

<i>John Steed</i>	Patrick Macnee
<i>Emma Peel</i>	Diana Rigg
<i>Ticket Collector</i>	James Hayter
<i>Crewe</i>	John Laurie
<i>Groom</i>	Drew Henley
<i>Bride</i>	Isla Blair
<i>Salt</i>	Tim Barrett
<i>Admiral</i>	Richard Caldicot (also in Wish You Were Here)
<i>Warren</i>	Dyson Lovell
<i>Attendant</i>	Peter J. Elliott
<i>Lucas</i>	Michael Nightingale
<i>Secretary</i>	Noel Davis
Teleplay by	Brian Sheriff
Directed by	John Krish

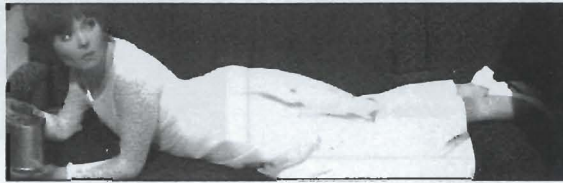
BBC 4 has been re-running "The Avengers" on Thursday evenings this winter. On Thursday 9th February 2006, a superlative edition was broadcast; it boasted a fine collection of actors including John Laurie, Isla Blair, James Hayter and Drew Henley. Entitled "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Station" and with the strap line "Steed Goes Off the Rails, Emma Finds Her Station in Life", it was completed on 22 March 1967. The show received its London Premiere (Season 5) on 14 April 1967, to be followed in the USA two weeks later (New York, Season 2) on 28 April 1967.



The episode is a typical light hearted thriller with delightfully silly moments including a wondrous piece of dialogue delivered in a deadpan way by Mrs Peel as she deciphers a code tapped out on a pipe recorded on a miniature device in Steed's umbrella: "Diddly-dah, diddly-dum, twiddly-dum, twiddly, twiddly, twiddly, dah; blinkety-blink, blinkety-blink, chaddily-dum, chaddily-dah, boopity-boop."



Emma finds a toy train running on the floor of her flat, and the train carries a placard with, "Mrs. Peel--We're Needed!" The plot centres around a megalomaniac train guard with a serious grudge against the Prime Minister who plots a creative assassination attempt involving converging trains and a short range electronic signal to trigger a bomb.



Isla Blair and Drewe Henley enigmatically travel up and down on the line as bride and groom.



John Laurie is an eccentric railway enthusiast who has bought a disused railway station which is architecturally identical to a rendezvous point for Steed and a field agent. The agent never arrives.

Meanwhile, investigations on the train and the train route uncover an MOD espionage trail from the Admiralty to a tiny station.



Steed finds bodies in abandoned trunks; microdots are transferred via railway tickets and Richard Caldicot takes a shine to Mrs Peel.



The dialogue is festooned with puns and humour, exemplified by Steed finishing the explanation of the mastermind's bomb plot aboard the train with the witticism "Pop goes the diesel !" They don't write them like that anymore.....



Leslie Phillips made an appearance in Heartbeat on Sunday 8th January 2006 as Denzill Witty, a raffish advertising executive with a desire to get rich quickly by erecting large advertising hoardings (on large vehicles "parked" on private land) adjacent to main routes through the countryside. A lovely part for us Sunday evening feel-good programme viewers, and one that deserves a reprise - if at all possible.



On February 19 2006 Leslie took on the role of a widowed land owner in a community with a dark secret. A house was bought to be a family home. Sadly the aspirations were never realised and a mysterious painting appears to chronicle an important episode in the social history of the locality. Who is hiding the truth and why? The programme weaves its magic and eventually the mysteries are solved.



It was an interesting adaptation because the producers introduced Miss Marple into the story whereas Agatha Christie had chosen not to use her. June Whitfield, a former Miss Marple from Radio 4's canon, had a pivotal role in the drama. We wonder how she felt in this revised interpretation. The programme sported a wealth of acting talent and was a superior episode from the current ITV season of "Miss Marples".



WordAloud Services | Radio & Audio Database | BBC Archive Project | Community Facilities | Internet Links | Usenet (Newsgroups)

BBC Main Page | Search The Archive | Radio Times Pages | How You Can Help | Upload Files | Submit Data | Contact the Project

WordAloud

Welcome Visitor to WordAloud.com - The BBC, QTR & Spoken Word Database

2005.02.24 - Major additions to 2003/2004.
 2005.02.17 - World Service section opens.
 2005.02.17 - BBC7 Listings added.
 2005.02.17 - Radio 4 2004 added.
 2005.02.17 - Radio 4 2003 added.
 2005.01.07 - Auto daily BBC listing updates.

Database Currently Contains:
 Audio Books: 1,291 entries
 Audio Drama: 109 entries
 Radio Drama: 7,451 entries
 Radio Series: 53,912 entries
 BBC Archive: 553,560 entries

BBC & Old Time Radio Database

Search WordAloud.com

For Advanced Search - go to the section's main page.

This site does not contain any 'downloadable' material. It serves purely as a reference point and database.

BBC Archive Project

Listen Live To BBC Webcasts: | BBC RADIO 1 | BBC RADIO 2 | BBC RADIO 3 | BBC RADIO 4 | BBC 5 LIVE | BBC 6 MUSIC |
 Live webcasts require the free *RealPlayer*. Click Here to download (1.7mb)

New Advanced Search Results as an NFO File **New Advanced Search**

Your search for "BBC7: Navy Lark" has produced the following results.

Page: <<< 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36

351	2006.02.16	The Navy Lark	The Cross Country Run: Rumour abounds that empire building Commander Povey is vying for Captain Stanton's job. First broadcast in March 1960. [Rptd Fri 6.30am]	Report Error
352	2006.02.17	The Navy Lark	The Cross Country Run: Rumour abounds that empire building Commander Povey is vying for Captain Stanton's job. First broadcast in March 1960. [Rpt of Thu 2.30pm]	Report Error
353	2006.02.23	The Navy Lark	The Morning After: Phillips and the crew are feeling tender and Commander Povey orders them onto choppy waters in search of a buoy. From March 1960. [Rptd Fri 6.30am]	Report Error
354	2006.02.24	The Navy Lark	The Morning After: Phillips and the crew are feeling tender and Commander Povey orders them onto choppy waters in search of a buoy. From March 1960. [Rpt of Thu 2.30pm]	Report Error

Page: <<< 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36

If you think that any of these entries are wrong, please report it by using the link.

Devotees of accurate lists will be pleased to learn of the arrival of a substantial database of broadcasts on the web. This resource is prepared and run by the BBC and it is a large searchable resource which has helped the NLAS to tidy up its record keeping. Data is not downloadable but that is a minor issue because it's just marvellous to have access to such a useful listing. The screenshot shows how BBC7 Navy Lark broadcasts are recorded week on week. The data fields have improved since details of BBC7's schedules started.

BBC Archive Project

Listen Live To BBC Webcasts: | BBC RADIO 1 | BBC RADIO 2 | BBC RADIO 3 | BBC RADIO 4 | BBC 5 LIVE | BBC 6 MUSIC |
 Live webcasts require the free *RealPlayer*. Click Here to download (1.7mb)

New Advanced Search Results as an NFO File

Your search for "BBC7: Navy Lark" has produced the following results.

A curious annotation!

1	2002.12.19	The Navy Lark	Classic comedy aboard HMS Troughtbridge (1959, 2 Star)
2	2002.12.19	The Navy Lark	Classic comedy aboard HMS Troughtbridge (1959, 2 Star)
3	2002.12.26	The Navy Lark	Classic comedy aboard HMS Troughtbridge
4	2002.12.26	The Navy Lark	Classic comedy aboard HMS Troughtbridge
5	2003.01.02	The Navy Lark	Classic comedy aboard HMS Troughtbridge
6	2003.01.02	The Navy Lark	Classic comedy aboard HMS Troughtbridge





How many of you managed to tune in to Deep Trouble? Radio Times currently has a preference for writing about celebrities and TV personalities, and singularly failed to print a photo or give the show more space than a token review by the radio editor in her 'Choice of the Day'. The same week saw Eastenders get a front cover and FOUR inside pages. Radio 4 was equally lethargic. Deep Trouble was totally absent from trails and the like, which we carefully monitored over the preceding week. This programme really deserves a repeat airing and although such a short run of programmes (4) hardly gives an audience a chance to get to know the characters, listeners can rest assured that all the necessary similarities between "The Navy Lark" and "Deep Trouble" are there. The joy can be found when the material is replayed and the storylines become more familiar and characterisation becomes more interesting.



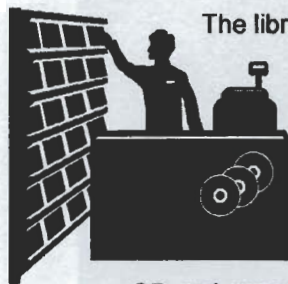
Can you deduce what the above equation is for?

The answer will come to a digital radio set near you in April.

Just as we were going to press in mid March, Georgie Robinson at BBC 7 contacted the NLAS regarding a 3 hour special the station is putting together for a Spring 2006 outing. We have been able to provide shows and historical information to be used in the show. Leslie Phillips has agreed to record the links for the special. Exact details of what will be in the programme are being prepared as this article is being written. Obviously this is going to be a unique occasion for Navy Lark fans and we will do everything possible to get the show into our library within days as soon as it goes out. If you cannot obtain a digital signal through a TV set top box or other instrument, you will be able to borrow CDs or tapes of the broadcast from David Matthews. Look out for details on BBC7's listings in the Radio Times or your newspaper and contact him in the following week.

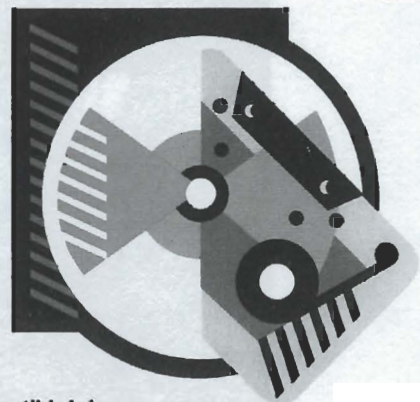
Grand Day!

Back in the Wardroom



The library has seen tremendous growth in quality and innovation in recent months. William Hardwick and Jeremy Stevenson continue to sift through their catalogues and collections then forward programmes and recordings featuring the cast members of The Navy Lark. David Matthews has now completed his Herculean task of converting all the various 'Larks' (Navy, TV, Embassy, Big Business) to MP3. Unlike the shows found on Ebay, the material the NLAS has available is recorded at the highest quality and David has taken the opportunity, whilst re-engineering our collection, to edit together different recordings of the shows to produce longer and better sounding episodes.

CD and cassette users can also benefit from David's labours because all loans leaving the library from now on will be the revised recordings; earlier material is now being retired and archived.



Stephen Murray



"The Long Sunset" by RC Sheriff: 21.03.1976

A historical drama, and perhaps a more typical vehicle, for Stephen's acting until joining Troutbridge. This play is set in Roman Britain at the point when the occupying forces are having to retreat to central Europe. The drama examines the personal conflicts and contexts of people's lives as decisions are made about their futures in the light of change and new order.

+
"A World Elsewhere" 16.02.1970 (86 minute political drama)

John Pertwee

"The Skivers" Feb/March 1995

"Are You Sitting Comfortably?" a panel game about radio

Leslie Phillips

17.03.1994 (arrived – but lost – requires re-submission)

"By The Pricking of My Fingers" DVD

Ronnie Barker

Jonathan Ross tribute DVD (1 hr)

BBC7 3 hour tribute DVD (sound only)

BBC7 3 hour tribute 3 X 1 hour CDs

"Lines from My Grandfather's Forehead"

Starring Ronnie Barker R4 22.02.06 / 01.03.2006 / 08.03.2006

DEEP TROUBLE



Startled Deer	20.10.2005
Navy Seals	27.10.2005
Admiral's Visit	03.11.2005
Crispy Duck / Astronaut	10.11.2005

The Navy Lark

02/16, 02/20, 03/07, 03/17, 04/04, 05/03, 07/07, 08/09, 09/16, 11/05, 11/08, 11/09, 11/10, 11/12, 11/16
13/06, 13/07, 13/11, 13/13

April Walker

"Frankie Howerd Show"

28.09.1975, 05.10.1975,
12.10.1975



Richard Caldicot

"My Sainted Aunt" Ser1 Ep6 08.10.1977

"The Avengers" DVD

Michael Bates

"Jason King" DVD



Heather Chasen

"Casualty" DVD

"Family Affairs" DVD



And a huge thanks to Steve Evans who risked life and limb retrieving his original off air recordings of The Navy Lark from the far recesses of his loft. Steve is a founder member of this group. He supplied many of the original shows in our library long before the NLAS became the busy forum it is today. Steve had a large number of tapes with shows that never managed to get transferred to our archives first time round. Thanks to the technical wizardry of our librarian, Steve's collection of shows presented us with a unique chance to upgrade earlier transfers and get first generation copies onto a hard drive for processing. This done, the original tapes and CD copies were returned and we can now enjoy a selection of the Steve Evans archive that either made it into the library or were used to extensively restore other recordings.

09/12A (poor quality but a longer version, held in the reserve collection)

10/18, 12/07A 13/02, 13/04, 13/05, 13/06, 13/09, 13/10, 14/03, 14/08, 14/12, 15/03

The ALLEN Taylor Archive

Allen Taylor posted some items on Ebay in the autumn of 2005. He was offering off air recordings on reel to reel spools that he had recorded in the 1960s. The material was recorded on extremely high quality machines using line input. The tape speed was also higher than the average home user of the day which meant that he had a collection of very desirable recordings of various "Golden Era" comedy shows. The NLAS continues to run on a shoe string so the chance of bidding and winning the auction to access The Navy Lark material seemed rather slim. We contacted Allen, who was fascinated to learn of the existence of The Navy Lark Appreciation Society. As long time enthusiasts of the show, we exchanged emails and then telephone conversations whilst the auction was 'live' on Ebay. Allen appreciated our love of the show and asked if we wanted the original tapes or just the material. It came as no surprise to Allen to learn that the NLAS just wanted to acquire copies of his shows. He subsequently offered to transfer the recordings to digital media. Allen's technical ability and electronic workshop gave us some stunning upgrades to our catalogue. He also re-mastered the Tommy Reilly incidental album, giving us the clearest and fullest musical resource for The Navy Lark we ever had. This unique album is not a commercial product and is not available anywhere, so it is all the more stunning that Allen scooped it out of a BBC skip in the 80s and that we casually found Allen through an Ebay auction in 2005.

Allen has re-mastered the off air material for us twice. David Matthews identified a degree of 'clipping' on the first set of CDs, and given that we knew the source and the engineer who owned them, it was a simple matter to ask Allen for an enhanced collection of discs. He swiftly organised a new batch and posted them over to David who has now revised our collection.

Allen has told us he has further shows buried in his loft and that he will be only too happy to upgrade our off air recordings as and when he locates further shows. His archive runs into thousands of tapes and a good many are BBC studio masters sold off as 'junk' years ago. He feels he has years of research in front of him playing, labelling and recording his collection. Sadly, many tapes have already started to deteriorate through age and poor media manufacture. These sticky blobs of celluloid have had to be thrown away without sentiment. We just have to be hugely thankful that Allen has managed to get hold of original Goons, Navy Lark and Clitheroe Kid material as well as a wealth of other recordings – as yet uncatalogued.

Allen tells us that he has high hopes of moving house in the foreseeable future, so he has an added impetus to sift and rationalise his collection. Let's hope his new home comes with a sizeable cellar!

For library users these are the shows that Allen gave us:

Date	#	Title	length
29.01.1960	02/16	The Lighthouse Lark	28.47
14.12.1960	03/07	Mt Rumpus Atoll	27.45
22.02.1961	03/17	Commodore Goldstein	28.10
06.10.1964	04/04	The Northampton Hunt Ball	27.42
19.04.1963	05/03	A Deliberate Bashing	29.02
22.08.1965	07/07	Let Loose With A Chopper	28.36
30.10.1966	08/09	Mr Phillips' Promotion	28.47
15.10.1967	09/16	Cuthbert Joins The Navy	24.21
25.01.1970	11/05	Sir Willoughby's Party	28.40
15.02.1970	11/08	The Phenomenal Pertwee Tug	29.59
22.02.1970	11/09	The Security Clamp Down	28.59
01.03.1970	11/10	The Anniversary and the Washing Machine	28.13
15.03.1970	11/12	Mr Murray Is Married	29.53
12.04.1970	11/16	The Mk 31 Radar	28.08
30.04.1972	13/06	The Tongipouhaha Treasure	26.55
07.05.1972	13/07	The US Navigator Swap	26.57
14.05.1972	13/08	Admiral Lord Nelson Phillips	27.21
04.06.1972	13/11	Opportunity Knockers	27.27
18.06.1972	13/13	The New NAAFI	24.04



POZZITIVE

TELEVISION
LIMITED

Thursday 1 December 2005

Dear Fred,

Many thanks for your delightful letter and enclosures of the 17th of October - and my apologies for the slightly geological delay in getting back to you. Most of this delay was because I was heads down in editing "Deep Trouble" in order to get it on the air in time, so I suspect not much has changed there from "The Navy Lark" days...

I'm very happy to enclose a few bits and pieces, although, alas, nothing as splendid as your Troutbridge enamel badge. There's a photo signed by Jim & Ben, the show's writer-creators, a handful of our publicity postcards and a set of CDs of the show. After all the trouble you've taken in writing to us, I'm very happy to be able to reciprocate in part, at least.

As for "Deep Trouble" itself, I can give you some details. At the moment, we don't yet know whether we're being commissioned for a second series, although we're very hopeful. The first series came about when Jim & Ben recorded a little pilot "taster" CD off their own bat - with different characters and a slightly different set-up to the final product, but with enough similarities to be recognizable. This their agents sent to me back in March 2004 (!) and we sent it to Radio Four that June, when after some humming and hawing, it was commissioned for a run of four.

We recorded the shows in The Soundhouse Studios in November of that year, but for all the "up-top" scenes, we went "on location" - sadly, just on Wimbledon Common, with all the FX layered on afterwards. That's a technique I've used before on another radio series I make, called "Giles Wemmbley-Hogg Goes Off" (starring Marcus Brigstocke), because I find it frees the actors up and you get good exterior acoustics which you can't get inside a studio.

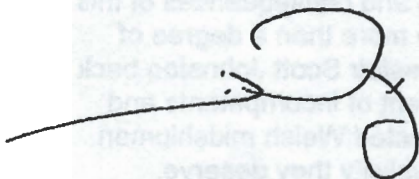
It then took me ages to edit, but we knew it wasn't going to transmit until October/November 2005 anyway. First I assembled all the dialogue without any FX, and cut all the shows to the right length. Then we slowly begin layering on all the sound effects, and then, as a final tweak, I did a pass with Foley (or what used to be called Spot Effects) for all the physical reactions and bustles and rustles.

The photoshoot was done on HMS Belfast, and they couldn't have been nicer or more helpful - they didn't even want to charge us for taking up their time, but we did send them a little charitable donation afterwards. It was great fun, although there was also a little ceremony going on at the same time of a veteran of the ship having his ashes scattered over the side, so that brought things into slight perspective for us!

In answer to your final question, no, we haven't been hanging around any wardrooms! But (if memory serves) both Jim and Ben are sons of military men, although I think Jim is RAF and Ben may even be the army - can't remember, alas. So they're both very used to hearing about the realities of Service life.

Apart from that, there's not much more news. We don't have a logo yet, but when the boys were writing the show, they did get themselves service-style baseball caps made up with the motto "Semper Recedio" - "Always Retreating"... which seemed appropriate for HMS Goliath!

All the very best,



David Tyler
Producer - "Deep Trouble"

ps I very much enjoyed your interview with Evelyn Wells in one of your magazines - Evelyn was actually there when I first started as a Week Ending writer and then producer in Radio Light Entertainment in 1984! I remember her very well - but wish now I'd taken the time to talk to her about some of the wonderful shows she'd done! And it's fun to note that my assistant Frany still packs the big black LP-size BBC programme box with "scripts...., variously coloured pens & pencils, paper clips, scissors... in fact anything that might be useful in the studio". I guess the only difference now is that instead of the show being on big reels of 1/4" tape, it's just a computer file...

DEEP TROUBLE

SEMPER RECEDIO



Radio 4 quietly ushered in a very good new comedy series for its 23.02 slot late last autumn. No forward publicity (as usual) by the Radio Times meant that a good many potential listeners for the show could have overlooked the series as it slid below the (air)waves without any curiosity from Navy Lark enthusiasts. The Navy Lark Appreciation Society has to thank The Sunday Times and The Telegraph for featuring a photo shoot of the cast and a commentary about the new show in their "choice" box-outs.

"Deep Trouble" was produced by David Tyler at Pozzitive Productions. The Team at Pozzitive have managed to create a worthy successor to The Navy Lark. The four-parter managed to establish the core idiosyncrasies of the ship's crew and their serendipitous way of meeting the needs of active service as a nuclear deterrent travelling the globe below the surface. The programme premiered on 20 October 2005 and was scripted by Ben Willbond and Jim Field-Smith who also formed part of the cast. The actions and consequences of this 21st century (mixed gender) crew aboard a stealth submarine pay more than a degree of homage to the characters deftly created by Lawrie Wyman and Alastair Scott Johnston back in 1959. HMS Goliath can likewise boast of having a full complement of incompetents and misfits at all levels in the ship's crew including the essential disaffected Welsh midshipman. New comedy programmes on Radio 4 are not always given the publicity they deserve.

Autumn and winter 2005/6 schedules constantly trailed the 6.30 shows and sometimes for no good reason! The late night slot was inappropriate for this show; the humour is good natured, and totally family friendly. "Deep Trouble" is an aural delight with superb

production values and storylines which echo the 'doings' of their fellow serving officers and men on Troutbridge. The show deserved a better time slot and a Sunday repeat. If 'Quote Unquote' can get a double outing, "Deep Trouble" surely ought to....

Without doubt it will take a couple of listens to become familiar with the characters and their foibles, but once you have acquired that bedrock of knowledge, sit back and enjoy the ride. The BBC have yet to publish any details regarding the re-broadcasting of the series but fear not, David Tyler has sent us master copies of the series straight off his hard drive, and these are available to NLAS library users right now. Just write to David Matthews for your loan copy! Huge thanks to everyone at HMS Goliath for helping us out with this edition of the newsletter and

let's hope that 2006 is the year the Senior Service returns to entertain us.

Radio choice Gillian Reynolds

Deep Trouble

Radio 4, 11.00 pm

New four-part comedy series by Ben Willbond and Jim Field-Smith, set in a British nuclear submarine manned by idiots. If the ghost of HMS Troutbridge from *The Navy Lark* (1959-77) sails by on distant airwaves, don't wave. With the kind of crew aboard HMS Goliath, it might be misconstrued.

Getting the Joke (Radio 4, 2.15 pm) goes back to grim 1954, when Donald McGill, creator of saucy seaside postcards full of traditional music hall



Ruling the waves? The bumbling crew of HMS Goliath defend the nation (R4, 11.00 pm)

double entendres, was arrested and charged with obscenity. He was 80 and faced a prison sentence. So was a widow in Cleethorpes, the only female shopkeeper charged with selling his postcards. John Wood plays McGill, Ann Beach plays the formidable Molly Dandridge in Neville Brand's play, based on actual police records of the trial.

The Truth About School League Tables (Radio 4, 8.00 pm) unearths some disquieting facts. Schools with apparently good results, even ones topping the academic league tables, may also be failing to get as many as a third of pupils to pass basic GCSEs. Simon Cox, in this special investigation, finds presentation too often triumphing over fact. Are we being conned?

Press
Office

BBC



Thursday 20 October
Deep Trouble 1/4
11.00 to 11.30pm

February 2012. Somewhere in the North Atlantic. In an increasingly uncertain defence environment, a deadly new arms race has begun. In an attempt to secure her boundaries, Britain has deployed the very latest sub-sea military technology.

Beneath and beyond the front line, these are the adventures of the HMS Goliath.

A 55,000 tonne M-Class nuclear stealth submarine, prowling 5,000 metres below the surface, manned by idiots.

This multi-million pound floating gadget is commanded by an unstable but watery mix of hot-headed and limp-wristed officers - headed, due to a clerical error, by bumbling desk-jockey Captain Paul Wade, on a permanent quest for lunch; and underneath him, an equally disenchanted, uninformed and easily distracted crew.

Each week the crew finds itself in a different part of the world, maybe on exercise, maybe helping a team of elite US Navy SEALs onto an enemy shoreline; or stopping to pick up a ditched astronaut who's been in space for far too long.

Wherever they are, they don't know where they are, but they're probably not far from trouble.

Captain Paul Wade is played by **Jim Field Smith**; Commander Alison Fairbanks by **Katherine Jakeways**; Lieutenant-Commander Jack Trainor by **Ben Willbond**; and Petty Officer Lucy Radcliffe by **Miranda Raison**.

The series is written by Ben Willbond and Jim Field Smith, both of whom have a long list of credits in comedy on stage, film and TV.

Producer: David Tyler



Deep Trouble

11.00pm R4

The 'situation' part of sitcoms has been done to death really, so the setting of this new comedy series in a giant nuclear submarine is pretty much irrelevant. What makes us want to come back week after week are the characters and the quality of the writing. Although my sides were in no danger of splitting I'm going to stick with this series: there's definitely the possibility that they may start to hunt a bit once I've warmed to the characters. *Jane Anderson*

Radio Times

DEEP TROUBLE

programmes

Thursday 20 October 2005 23:00-23:30 (Radio 4 FM)

A NATO exercise with our American friends goes horribly wrong as the crew find that torpedoes and coffee don't mix.

Capt Paul Wade Jim Field Smith
Cdr Alison Fairbanks Katherine Jakeways
Lt Jack Trainor Ben Willbond
PO Lucy Radcliffe Miranda Raison
PO Bazeley Renton Skinner
PO Jones Gareth Tunley
Marco Rufus Jones
Capt Dan Burger Kerry Shale
Narrator Jonathan Ryland

Producer/ director David Tyler.

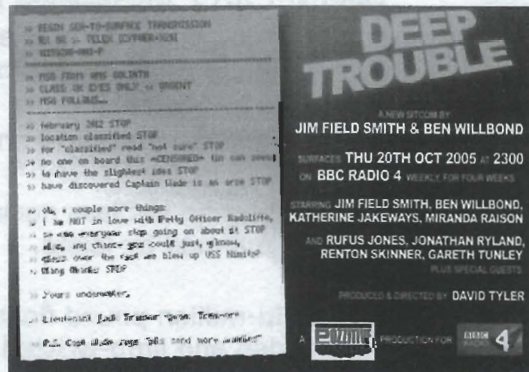


Thursday 27 October 2005 23:00-23:30 (Radio 4 FM)

Some US Navy Seals set hearts and minds on board the Goliath, while PO 'Fatty' Lewis gets stuck up a pipe.

Capt Paul Wade Jim Field Smith
Cdr Alison Fairbanks Katherine Jakeways
Lt Jack Trainor Ben Willbond
PO Lucy Radcliffe Miranda Raison
PO Bazeley Renton Skinner
PO Jones Gareth Tunley
Anzalone Rufus Jones
USN Master Chief Olsen Kerry Shale
Narrator Jonathan Ryland

Producer/ director David Tyler.



Thursday 3 November 2005 23:00-23:30 (Radio 4 FM)

A Russian sub, a Hamier Jump Jet, a sewing machine and an unexpected promotion for Lucy.

Capt Paul Wade Jim Field Smith
Cdr Alison Fairbanks Katherine Jakeways
Lt Jack Trainor Ben Willbond
PO Lucy Radcliffe Miranda Raison
PO Bazeley Renton Skinner
F/O Withers Rufus Jones
PO Jones Gareth Tunley
Narrator Jonathan Ryland
Margaret Katy Brand
Capt Rukavashnikov Boris Isarov

Producer/director David Tyler.

Thursday 10 November 2005 23:00-23:30 (Radio 4 FM)

A stray astronaut and a rock band cause confusion in both Captain Wade's head and Portsmouth.

Capt Paul Wade Jim Field Smith
Cdr Alison Fairbanks Katherine Jakeways
Lt Jack Trainor Ben Willbond
PO Lucy Radcliffe Miranda Raison
PO Bazeley Renton Skinner
F/O Withers Rufus Jones
PO Jones Gareth Tunley
Narrator Jonathan Ryland
Murray "Minty" Fowler Steve Furst

Producer/Director David Tyler.

2.00 News, 2.15 Afternoon Play: Getting The Joke, by Neil Brand. The saucy seaside-postcard creator Donald McGill is arrested in 1954 on charges of obscene publication. With John Wood
3.00 News; Questions, Questions. Trivia pursued
3.27 Radio 4 Appeal (R)
3.30 Family Affairs: The Watercross Wife, by Tamar Hodges. Short story
3.45 This Sceptred Isle - Empire. Colonising Virginia
4.00 News; Open Book (R)
4.30 The Material World. A report on the search for a blade that stays permanently sharp
5.00 PM. With Eddie Mair
5.54 (LW) Shipping Forecast
5.57 Weather
6.00 News
6.30 Another Case Of Milton Jones. Comedy series
7.00 News; The Archers
7.15 Front Row. Arts reviews
7.45 Betsy And Napoleon (R)
8.00 News; The Truth About School League Tables. Simon Cox discovers how schools are able to manipulate exam results
8.30 In Business. The inventor Lon Ball talks about creating a new type of electric vehicle
9.00 News; Leading Edge
9.30 In Our Time (R)
9.59 Weather Forecast
10.00 The World Tonight
10.45 Book At Bedtime
11.00 Deep Trouble. New comedy series about the inept crew of a nuclear submarine
11.30 Today In Parliament
12.00 News; Weather

PICK OF THE DAY



Afternoon Play: Getting The Joke (R4, 2.15pm)
The artist Donald McGill, immortalised by his saucy seaside postcards, fell foul of the law just after his 80th birthday in 1954. Neil Brand's drama centres on the remarkable obscenity trial that followed, if you are not after very smiles but belly laughs, immerse yourself in *Deep Trouble* (R4, 11pm), a witty new sitcom, above, set on a nuclear submarine manned by idiots and visited by disobedient hacks (who include 'Littlejohn, AA Gill and the Jam Girls'). The writers, who also star, are Ben Willbond and Jim Field Smith, a very gifted pair.

RADIO 2
FM 88-90.2 Mhz
6.00 Sarah Kennedy **7.30** Terry Wogan **8.30** Ken Bruce
12.00 Jeremy Vine **2.00**



BEN WILLBOND

Comedy Writer, Performer

Perrier Best Newcomer Award-winner, Ben Willbond, combines his phenomenal writing talents and acting skills, to make him one of the most sought after performers working. Following the earlier Perrier award (for the BEN 'N ARN SHOW), Ben performed the lead role of 'Alex' in his critically acclaimed, self-written play 'SPOOKS'; gaining 5 star reviews for (sell-out) runs in both Edinburgh 2002 - and the Soho Theatre in London. Following the success of the play, Ben was then booked as a core member of the Ealing Live Sketch Team; writing and performing weekly character comedy shows at Ealing Studios.

In addition to his live performances, Ben's acting/TV credits, include the BBC series 'THE ROBINSONS', (BBC); THE CATHERINE TATE SHOW (BBC); THE LENNY HENRY SHOW (BBC); SECRET SMILE (ITV drama); 'BLESSED' (BBC), the third series of the Channel 4 comedy 'BLACK BOOKS', and BBC's '28 ACTS IN 28 MINUTES'. Ben has also recently filmed a role in the feature film 'CLICK' and is set to star in 'STARTER FOR TEN'. Ben has also worked consistently in the field of radio, with appearances on BBC Radio programmes, which include: 'ARE WE AS OFFENSIVE AS WE THOUGHT?' 'THE NOW SHOW' and 'LOOSE ENDS'. On Radio 1, Ben played a major acting role in the comedy sketch show 'THE MILK RUN', and took part in the Radio 2 show 'Parsons & Naylor'.



JIM FIELD SMITH

Comedy Writer, Director / Producer, Performer

As part of 5-man comedy group THE DUTCH ELM CONSERVATOIRE, Jim has had great successes at the Edinburgh Fringe. Most recently this year when their show CONSPIRACY was nominated for the prestigious Perrier Award.

As well as a successful actor and writer Jim is also one of the founding partners of 'Idiotlamp' Production Company, and works as a freelance writer, producer and director. For Idiotlamp he has co-written, produced and directed the Channel 4 programmes MISSING MOSCOW and MY FRIEND, and various short films. He produced the comedy benefit FUNNY MONEY in the West End, and is currently developing several TV and radio comedy projects. Other writing credits include RESISTANCE (BBC3), BORN SLOPPY (C4), SEMI-DETACHED (BBC pilot), SWAG (five), THE CUBAN BROTHERS (MTV), GERMAN ON MY SUNBED (ITV) and scripts for various award ceremonies and corporates including The Prince's Trust and BT. He was the script consultant for Ricky Gervais's live tour and DVD "POLITICS",





MIRANDA RAISON

Actress

Miranda Raison is a talented and versatile actress, trained at The Webber Douglas Academy, with numerous credits in TV, film, theatre and radio.

She recently appeared in Woody Allen's next film **MATCH POINT** alongside Scarlett Johansson, and has just completed filming **LAND OF THE BLIND** alongside Ralph Fiennes.

Television credits include a recent lead on the new series of **SPOOKS** for BBC1, **BIRD'S EYE VIEW** Channel 4, **THE PRIVATE LIFE OF SAMUEL PEPYS**, BBC1, **HEARTBEAT**, Granada, **EMMERDALE**, Yorkshire TV and **HOLBY CITY**, BBC.

Theatre credits include **PAINS OF YOUTH**, and **BEN HUR**, both BAC productions. **OTHELLO**, York Theatre Royal and **THE MAN WHO CAME TO DINNER**, Chichester Festival Theatre.



KATHERINE JAKEWAYS

Actress, Comedian, Writer

Most recently seen at The Assembly Rooms, Edinburgh as Cecily Pigeon in "The Odd Couple", alongside Bill Bailey and Alan Davies. Currently filming "The Message" a sketch show for the BBC, which will be shown in early 2006.

Katherine's stage credits include **ONE FLEW OVER THE CUCKOO'S NEST**, Gielgud Theatre, **LOST IN BANK STATION**, Assembly Rooms, **AGE SEX LOCATION**, Riverside Studios and self-named show **KATHERINE JAKEWAYS**, Pleasance. Katherine is also a regular performer on comedy circuit, and member of sketch teams at Ealing Studios and Sketch Pad and The Pros From Dover at the Hen and Chickens

Television credits include, **BLACKOUT** C4 Comedy Lab Ealing Studios, **SKIN DEEP**, Celador C4, **FACT HUNT** with Al Murray for Avalon Productions, **OBLIVIOUS POPSTARS**, Tiger Aspect.

Katherine has also previously been a presenter of travel reports on GMTV, and a broadcaster of travel news on variety of BBC and GWR radio stations, including BBC London Live. Main travel broadcaster on SGR FM, Broadland 102, Classic Gold Digital Amber and FM 103 Horizon.





LAUGHTER: Michael Palin



IN STITCHES: June Whitfield



WARM TRIBUTE: Peter Kay



CO-STAR: Lynda Baron



OLD FRIEND: David Jason

And it's goodbye to him..

LOVED:
Ronnie
BarkerPRAISE:
Ronnie
Corbett

STARS OUT FOR RONNIE BARKER MEMORIAL

THE greats of British comedy turned out en masse yesterday to say a final goodbye to Ronnie Barker at a memorial service for the star.

Laughter rang out in Westminster Abbey as friends and colleagues joined a legion of fans to pay tribute to Barker who died in October, aged 76.

Two Ronnies partner Ronnie Corbett spoke fondly of his "dearest" friend while comic Peter Kay had the congregation in stitches after revealing he and his hero had been pen pals.

Corbett said: "This is a truly monumental task for

By FIONA CUMMINS
Showbiz Reporter

me, to encapsulate in a few minutes 40 years of working harmoniously with this dearest of men.

"Forty years without an argument. Forty years of unmitigated pleasure, thrills and laughs. "Dear Ron, whom we remember so fondly today. He provided us with the happiest of times."

Fittingly for a comic whose most famous joke concerned "fork handles", the Abbey clergy were led in by vergers with four candles. The service, attended by

around 2,000 people, was led by Canon Robert Wright, Sub-Dean of Westminster.

Barker's wife of 46 years, Joy, their son Larry, 45, and daughter Charlotte, 43, were present.

But there was no sign of the couple's other son, 38-year-old Adam, who jumped bail last year and fled the UK after being arrested on suspicion of downloading child porn from the Internet.

Stars who attended included Michael Palin, June Whitfield, Lynda Baron, Nicholas Lyndhurst, Terry Wogan, Leslie Ash, Stephen Fry and Dawn French.

Actor Richard Eriks read the Prologue to Act IV of Shakespeare's Henry V, a work loved by Barker.

And Phoenix Nights star Kay led a round of applause to the star after

relating how he and the comedian had exchanged a series of hilarious letters.

But the last word came from Barker himself in a clip from an interview played to the congregation.

He said: "I suppose I'd like to be remembered as one of the funniest men people have seen on TV. He did make us laugh. God bless him."

After the service, Sir David Jason, Barker's co-star in BBC comedy classic Open All Hours, said: "It was great fun and a wonderful way to remember Ronnie's life."

LISTEN Avenue, the Doncaster street in which Open All Hours was filmed, could be demolished.

Councillors say some of the town's pre-1919 housing must make way for new developments.

fiona.cummings@mirror.co.uk



WIDOW: Joy



GRINS: Nicholas Lyndhurst



MEMORIES: Terry Wogan



SMILES: Leslie Ash



RESPECTS: Stephen Fry



FAREWELL: Dawn French

In memoriam

Mr Ronnie Barker

A service of thanksgiving for the life of Mr Ronnie Barker was held yesterday in Westminster Abbey. Canon Robert Wright officiated, assisted by the Rev Deiniol Morgan. Miss Josephine Tewson read the lesson. Mr Richard Briers read *The Prologue to Act IV from The Life of King Henry the Fifth* by Shakespeare and Mr Michael Grade, Chairman of the Board of Governors, BBC, read *The Gentle Art of Corpse from It's Hello from Him* by Ronnie Barker. Mr Peter Kay and Mr Ronnie Corbett paid tribute to Mr Barker. A recording was played of Ronnie Barker reading *A Sermon in Rhyming Slang*.

Canon Robert Biles and Canon Jane Hedges were robed and seated in the Sacrament.

The Lord Mayor of Westminster, Councillor Tim Joiner, attended. Among others present were:

Mrs Barker (widow), Mr and Mrs Larry Barker (son and daughter-in-law), Mrs Charlotte Barker (daughter), Emily Barker, Alice Barker, Oscar Barker, George Barker (grandchildren), Mrs Emma Bullard, Mr Lewis Bullard, Ms Georgina Bullard, Mr and Mrs David Bullard, Mr and Mrs Gavin Chung, Miss Jane Cornish, Miss Ann Cornish, Miss Sarah Cornish, Miss Katherine Cornish, Mr Mark Cornish, Mr and Mrs Andrew Ellis, Mr David Hampton, Mr Michael Marsh, Miss Jane Marsh, Miss Sally Marsh, Mr Michael Vaughan, Ms Betty Westbrooke, Mr and Mrs Bill Westbrooke, Ms Katie Westbrooke, Ms Gill Wright, Mr and Mrs Ray Hancock, Mr and Mrs Jon Arnold, Mr Stewart Dibble, The Duchess of Devonshire, Lord Albi, Lord and Lady Chillingham, Lord Colwyn, Lord Palmer, the Hon Alexandra Shackleton, Sir Andrew Burns and Mr Kanji Soudhi, BBC Governors, Sir Bill and Lady Cotton, Sir Paul and Lady Fox, Sir David Frost, Sir Anthony and Lady Garner, Sir David and Lady Jason, Lady Riches, Lady Shields, Dame Maggie Smith, Sir Donald Sinden, Sir Terry Wogan, Princess George Galitzine.

Mr Mark Thompson, Director General, BBC, with Mr Alan Yentob, Director of Drama, Entertainment and Children's Programmes and Mr Wayne Garvie, Director of Entertainment, Mr Harry Landis, President, Equity, the Deputy Speaker of the Borough of Bedford, Mr Eric Pates, Chairman, the Marianettes Amateur Comedy Society, Mr Larry Chesdale, Mr Ralph Beardon and Mr Adam Borsone, British Music Hall Society, Mr Patrick Newley, The Stage, Ms Jennifer Hoare, Nimrod Theatres, Mr Peter Durrant, London Press Club.

Mrs Ronnie Corbett, Mrs Richard Briers, Mrs Peter Kay, Mr Michael Palin, Mr Bernard Cribbins, Mr Stephen Fry, Mr Ben Elton, Mr David Suchet, Mr Lenny Henry and Miss Dawn French, Mr Frank Finlay, Miss Patricia Routledge, Mr Leslie Phillips, Mr Mike Leigh, Mr Barry Cryer, Mr Les Dennis, Miss Katie Boyle, Mr Robert Powell, Mr Jon Plowman, Mr John Sullivan, Mr Nicholas Lyndhurst, Mr Bob Warran, Mr Cliff Michelmore, Miss Biddy Baxter, Mr Christopher Biggins, Mr Tim Brooke-Taylor, Mr Lisa Tordella, Mr Jeremy Clarkson, Miss Pamela Fielding, Mrs Eric McCormack, Mrs Leslie Crovther, Mr Ian Li Freeman, Mr David Vip, Mr Jonathan Powell, Miss Monica Sims, Mrs Louise Smale, Miss Kathy Ruske, Miss Kathy Smith, Miss Jane Whitfield, Mr Will Wyatt.

Mr John Adams, Mr Nils Almqvist, Mrs Leslie Ash, Mr John Buzza, Mr Alan Bell, Mr Kevin Bishop, Mr Denise Bryer, Mr Roy Clarke, Mr Helen Carter, Mr Daniel Day-Lewis, Mr Barbara Flynn, Mr Suzanne Frowde, Mr Jimmy Gilbert, Mr Ronnie Halden, Mr Lorraine Heggessey, Mr Julie Heslop, Mr Ashley Hignfield, Mr Sue Hogg, Mr Bob Hogg, Mr Terry Hughes, Mr Gill Giles, Mr Tony James, Mr Sidney Jones, Mr Sazzy Kendall, Mr David Norman, Mr Bob McElroy, Mr Kelly McGonigal.

Mr Sophie Clarke-Jarvis, Mr Anthony McMichael, Mr Kim Maudslayi, Mr Roy Millichippe, Mr Paul Murrell, Mr Sharon Morgan, Mr Maggie Ollerenshaw, Miss Caroline O'Neill, Mr Tony Owsen, Mr Geoffrey Paddison, Mr Maurice Plantain, Mr and Mrs Robert Reynolds, Mr Daniel Scheffer, Prof Jean Seaton, Mr Harold Shead, Mr Janice Thomas, Mr David Thompson, Mr Peter Vaughan, Mr Nick Vaughan-Harvey, Mr Peter Vincent, Mr Iain Warren, Mr Keith Waterhouse, Mr Bill Wilson.

Mr Anne McIntosh, MP, Dr Ruth Vis, MP, Mr Andrew Miller, MP, Mr Toby Jessel and Miss Bira Heath, Mrs M. Arnold, Mr and Mrs David Bailey, Mr Edward Barnes, Mr Tony Blundel, Dr Stephen Blake, Judge and Mrs Bradbury, Mr Alec Bregonzi, Mr and Mrs M. Brett, Mr Geoffrey Broadbent, Mr Robert Brooke, Mr Christine Brown, Mr Dick Clement, Mr Ian Davidson, Mr Michael Godron, Miss Belle Emberg, Mr Mike Fontann, Miss Diana Garrett, Mr and Mrs Peter Holmes, Miss Ann Home, Miss Celia Jones, Miss Binda Brown, Mr and Mrs Steve Jones, Mr Peter Jenkins, Mr Terry Johnson.

Mr Freddie Jones, Mr and Mrs Brian Kay, Mrs Austin Kopley, Mr Roy Lennett, Mr and Mrs D.P.R. Macallister, Mr Jim Noie, Mr Marcus Mortimer, Mr David Nobbs, Mrs E. Nyttier, Mr Michael Rocco, Mr Nick Peto, Mr Roger Rutherford, Mr David Rennie, Mr Peter Sissons, Mr R.H. Sephton, Canon Revue Sierpe, Mr Ned Sherrin, Mrs Valerie Smith, Mr Peter Shaw, the Rev Simon and Mrs Spillan, Mr and Mrs A. Sullivan, Mrs Alice Suttie, Thompson, Mrs M. Telford, Mr Guy Wilkerson and Mr Robin Wood, together with many other friends.

The Daily Telegraph

NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR

Saturday, March 4, 2006 No 46,885 £1.20

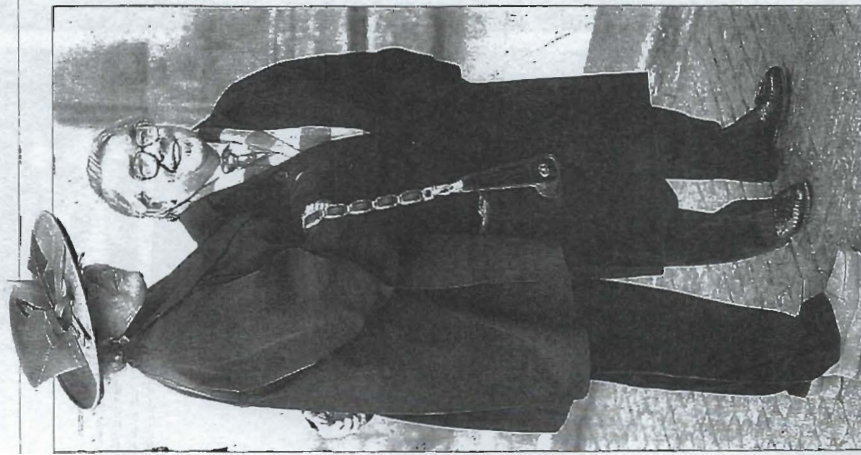
BRITAIN'S BEST-SELLING QUALITY DAILY

www.telegraph.co.uk

..

THE DAILY TELEGRAPH SATURDAY, MARCH 4, 2006

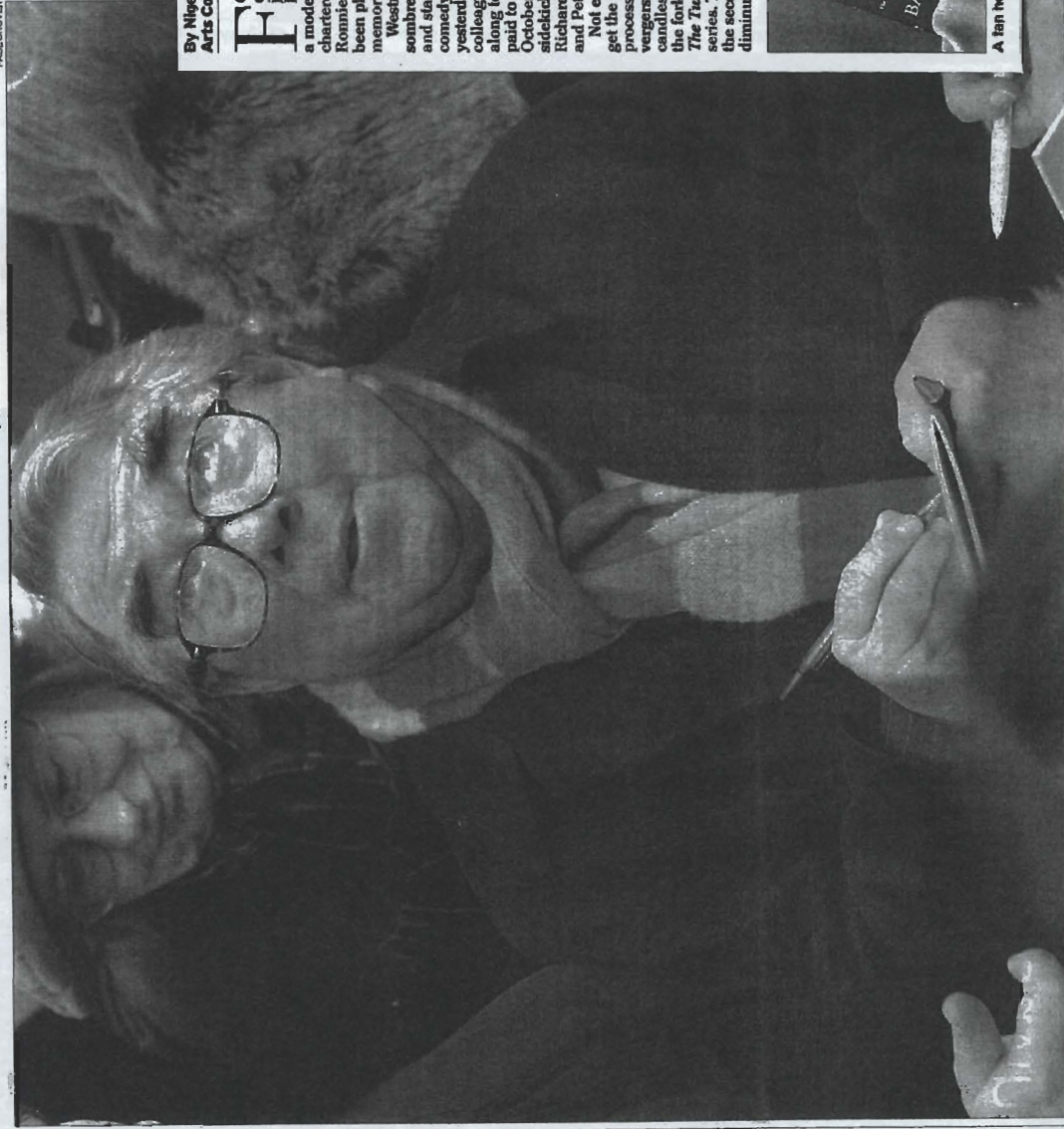
CRAIG BROWN

Built to list: a list to build
Way Of The World, Page 27

Ronnie Corbett, with his wife Anne Hart, led the jokes

Four candles and a farewell

PAUL GROVER



The comedian Ronnie Corbett joined nearly 2,000 well-wishers in a Westminster Abbey memorial service yesterday in honour of his screen partner Ronnie Barker. The tone for the service was set when robed clergy entered carrying four huge candles - recalling the "four handles" sketch on The Two Ronnies Full story: Page 5

By Nigel Reynolds
Arts Correspondent

FOR a man who described himself as a jobbing actor and who had the appearance of a moderately successful chartered accountant, Ronnie Barker would have been pleased with his memorial service.

Westminster Abbey, sombre venue of coronations and state funerals, became a comedy club for an hour yesterday as 2,000 friends, colleagues and fans laughed along the slapstick tributes paid to Barker, who died last October aged 76, by his sidestick Ronnie Corbett, Richard Briers, the actor, and Peter Kay, the comedian.

Not everybody appeared to get the first joke. As the choir processed in to the abbey, vergers carried four huge candles - a subtle tribute to the *Four Handles* sketch from *The Two Ronnies* television series. There was no missing the second joke. Corbett, a diminutive figure in the

abbey's pulpit, hesitating as he began his tribute, grew a foot taller and, to laughter, revealed that he had stepped on to a wooden crate.

He explained: "Ronnie and I first met at a little actors' place behind the stage door of the Haymarket. I was working the bar there and Ronnie always insisted from that day on that when I served him I was standing on a beer crate."

It was only the third time that a comic has received a memorial service at Westminster Abbey. Joyce Grenfell, in 1980, and Les Dawson, in 1994, led the way.

Stephen Fry, Sir Terry Wogan, Ben Elton and Dawn French were among the turnouts, which was led by Barker's widow, Joy, and the couple's children, Larry, 45, and Charlotte, 42.

Absent, however, was Barker's youngest child, Adam, 37, who has been missing for more than two years after being arrested for allegedly possessing child pornography. He did not see his father before his death and was not at his funeral.

In his tribute, Kay, star of *Phoenix Nights*, told how he had written as a fan to Barker and received by return a letter stamped HM Prison, Shute, and signed Norman Stanley Fletcher, Barker's character in *Porridge*. Kay then sent him a cake containing a nail file.

in memoriam: Page 28

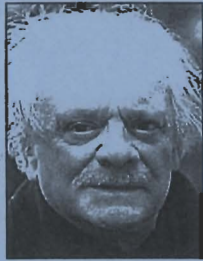


A fan holds a picture of Barker

Four candles at the Abbey lead tribute to Ronnie



WIDOW: Ronnie's beloved Joy leaves the service



DAVID JASON: 'He taught me a lot. My mentor'



MICHAEL PALIN: Worked alongside his pal Ronnie



LYNDA BARON: Played nurse in Open All Hours



NICHOLAS LYNDHURST: Waved to photographers



SIR DONALD SINDEN: He struck a dapper pose

By Paul Callan

IT was the last Goodbye From Him in Westminster Abbey yesterday.

Comics, friends, television bosses and fans gathered to remember TV's funniest man - Ronnie Barker, who died last October, aged 78.

He was only the third comedian to have a memorial service in the ancient abbey - the others were Les Dawson and Joyce Grenfell.

Laughter rattled around the transepts, and it was very much a day for tears of joy rather than sorrow.

The service opened with a spoof of the Two Ronnies' much-loved "four candles-fork handles" sketch. A choir calling itself the Cross of Westminster And Four Candles sang the first hymn.

The man who made the nation rock with laughter in shows like the Two Ronnies, with his partner Ronnie Corbett, and Open All Hours, with David Jason, could find humour in the most mundane situations.

But in private he was a quiet family man who liked to run his antiques shop in Chipping Norton, Oxfordshire.

The heart of British comedy was widely represented at the service.

Stephen Fry walked in behind Dawn French and her husband Lenny Henry. Nicholas Lyndhurst waved to photographers and there was a special cheer from the crowd outside for Kathy Staff, best known as Nora Batty.

Stars from the more serious side of television, Sir David Frost and Jeremy Clarkson, also honoured the man.

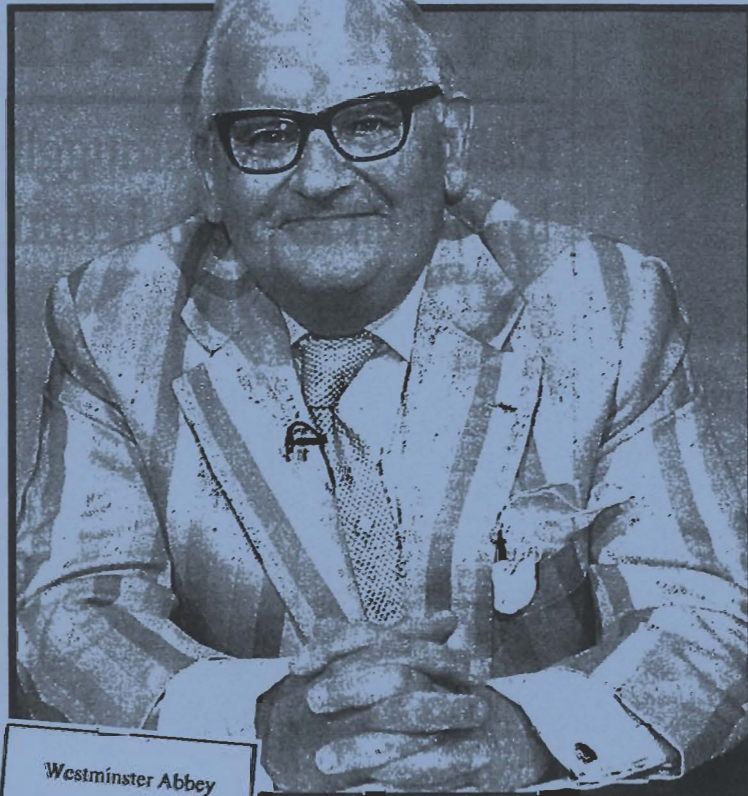
But it took the great Sir David Jason to sum up all their feelings about Ronnie Barker. Standing in the chill wind outside the abbey, he said: "Ronnie was my mentor and he taught me a lot. I always called him Guv and I attribute most of what I have achieved to him."

Sitting close together in the choir stalls were Ronnie Barker's family - his widow Joy and children Larry and Charlotte.

The only family member missing was his son Adam, who is wanted for questioning by the police. His absence was the only bleak aspect of the service.

The ringing Christianity of the service - hymns like Jerusalem - was ironic, given that Barker was an atheist.

But perhaps he would have appreciated the words of



Westminster Abbey



SERVICE OF THANKSGIVING
FOR THE LIFE AND WORK OF
RONNIE BARKER OBE
1929-2005

(the Reverend Robert Wright, the sub-dean of Westminster, who said: "Today we shall laugh and perhaps we shall cry but above all we shall rejoice, with great thankfulness, for the gift of laughter.")

Barker's widow wiped away a tear and gripped the hand of her daughter Charlotte.

Richard Briers read the ringing Prologue to Act Four of Shakespeare's Henry V. "The play held a special place in Ronnie's affections," said Briers. "As a schoolboy he bunked off for a whole afternoon to see Laurence Olivier's

film of the play. Unfortunately for Ronnie, who should spot him in the queue outside the cinema but his headmaster. He got into frightful trouble."

Comic Peter Kay recalled that after writing to Ronnie Barker saying how much he admired his techniques, he received a reply written on writing paper headed "HM Prison Bide".

In reply, Barker had adopted the character of Fletcher, whom he portrayed in the prison comedy Pompidou.

Like a pantomime character popping out of a stage trap door, Ronnie Corbett appeared from nowhere. He had clambered onto a specially produced box placed in the high pulpit so that he could see over the top.

The diminutive comedian recalled how he and Barker had first met 45 years ago. "I was running a bar at an actors' club called The Buxton," he said.

"He always insisted that I had been standing on a beer

crate when I served the drinks."

Glancing down and grinning, he added: "It has proved quite useful this morning."

Recalling their relationship, he said: "We had 40 years without any arguments and there was much laughter all the time."

"I remember when we were in Australia together Ronnie decided to go on a diet as did Harry Secombe who was also in the country at the time. Together they lost the equivalent of me."

At the end of the service they played a clip from an interview made shortly before he died.

"I would like to be remembered as one of the funniest men on television," he said. "And that people would say 'He made me laugh'."

There was a pause - and in a jokey voice, he added: "Gawd bless 'im."

There must be laughter in heaven these days.

OPINION: PAGE 12



RONNIE CORBETT: He delivered the eulogy



JUNE WHITFIELD: Smiles from the Ab Fab actress



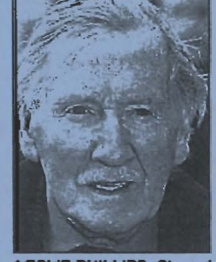
PETER KAY: Wrote to Ronnie on regular basis



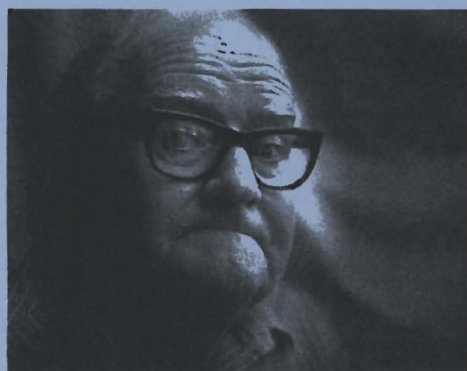
LESLIE ASH: Decked in a sombre black outfit



TIM BROOKE-TAYLOR: Writer for Two Ronnies



LESLIE PHILLIPS: Starred with Ronnie in Navy Lark



I was Barker's pen pal, Peter Kay reveals at memorial

By Karl Mansfield and Matthew Beard

As one of the greats of British television comedy, Ronnie Barker would have appreciated a moment of levity at his Westminster Abbey memorial yesterday. Peter Kay, the star of *Phoenix Nights*, revealed to the congregation of 2,000 mourners that he wrote a fan letter to Barker, saying that he was his comedy hero and that *Porridge* was one of his favourite shows.

Barker wrote back in the character of Norman Fletcher, his character in *Porridge*, still residing at Her Majesty's pleasure in the fictitious Slade Prison. "Fortunately, I've been able to keep a clean sheet in here," Fletcher wrote.

"But that's mainly because I

work in the prison laundry," Kay told the congregation: "I wrote to him about three or four years ago. I had always been a massive fan and, after a few attempts, I finally wrote a letter and told him how much I liked him."

"And then this letter came one day and I opened it and saw 'Her Majesty's Prison' and I thought, 'Oh my God, they must think I'm the Johnny Cash of comedy [the country music star famously performed in San Quentin and Folsom prisons]."

"But when I noticed it said 'Slade Prison', I couldn't believe it. I couldn't believe I had a letter from Norman Stanley Fletcher. It meant so much to me and it still does."

"We wrote to each other over a few years and talked about everything. It's not often you get to meet your heroes in life, let alone

become penpals with them." Kay responded to the first letter by replying as the *Phoenix Nights* club boss, Brian Potter, and sending him a mail-file. Barker's final letter arrived last year, Kay said, and he led the Abbey mourners in a round of applause.

Ronnie Corbett, who starred in *The Two Ronnies* television show with Barker, spoke of enjoying "40 years of unmitigated pleasure" working with him. Among the 2,000 mourners for Barker, who died last October, aged 76, were 1,600 fans who queued outside in the winter sunshine clutching tickets they had won through a ballot.

Corbett added: "This is a truly monumental task for me, to encapsulate, in a few minutes, 40 years of working harmoniously with this dearest of men. Forty years without an argument."

Forty years of unmitigated pleasure, thrills and laughs."

Those present included Sir Terry Wogan, Michael Palin, Stephen Fry, Lenny Henry and Dawn French, and Barker's *Open All Hours* co-star, Sir David Jason. The actor Richard Briers read the Prologue to Act IV from Shakespeare's *Henry V*, a work which held a special place in Barker's affections.

As a boy, he missed school to see the Laurence Olivier film version, but his headmaster spotted him waiting in the cinema queue. The chairman of the BBC, Michael Grade, read an extract from Barker's 1988 autobiography, *It's Hello From Him*, a chapter entitled *The Gentle Art of Corpsing*.

The last word from the service came from Barker himself. His voice was heard in the Abbey in

a clip from a recorded interview. He said: "I suppose I would like to be remembered as one of the funniest men people have seen on TV. 'He did make us laugh. God bless him'."

The ceremony was attended by Barker's widow, Joy, his son, Larry and daughter, Charlotte. There was no sign of his other son, Adam, who jumped bail last summer and fled the UK after being arrested on suspicion of downloading indecent images of children from the internet.

Canon Robert Wright, the sub-dean of Westminster, who conducted the service, said that Barker was a family man who was devoted to his wife and three children, and preferred to live a quiet life when not performing. He added that Barker had "a remarkable ability to find humour in very mundane situations".



Peter Kay, Lynda Baron, who played Nurse Gladys Emmanuel in *Open All Hours*, and Ronnie Corbett arriving at Westminster Abbey for the service for Ronnie Barker, far left REUTERS/STEPHEN BIRD

Securitas robbery millions found at car yard

By Jason Bennetto
Crime Correspondent

Millions of pounds from the Securitas robbery has been found on an industrial estate in south-east London.

A 43-year-old man was arrested on suspicion of handling stolen goods after a raid by officers investigating the £58m armed robbery at a cash depot in Tonbridge, Kent, last week.

Police found bags of cash at the back of a car repair business, ENR Cars, in Welling. Officers raided the property on Thursday and spent yesterday searching the area. Police were still examining the cash, but said it was "several million pounds".

Two people appeared in court in connection with the robbery yesterday. Lea Rusha, 33, from Southborough, Tunbridge Wells, and Jetmir Bucpapa, 24, of Tonbridge, appeared at Maidstone magistrates' court charged with conspiracy to commit robbery.

Police have recovered £1.8m from an abandoned white van near Ashford, Kent. They also found cash hidden near a farm in Staplehurst, Kent, owned by a car dealer charged with kidnapping and conspiracy to rob Securitas.

The owner of ENR Cars, speaking from Spain, where he is on holiday, said he had sublet the yard and the first he knew of the money being found was when he saw it on the news. He said: "This raid has nothing to do with me. I was very shocked when I heard what has happened. But I have been in constant contact with Kent police about it."

Two men and a woman were remanded in custody on Thursday, charged with involvement in the robbery.